

# Department of Human Services

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## Articles in Today's Clips Friday, January 12, 2007

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## Abraham may be released

Young killer turns 21 next week, hopes to get job

January 12, 2007

BY FRANK WITSIL

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

If he is released, Nathaniel Abraham, who as a boy attracted national attention by becoming the youngest person in Michigan to be charged with murder, plans to move into an apartment and begin looking for a job, his attorney said.

"He has literally spent his childhood in prison," attorney Daniel Bagdade told the Free Press on Thursday. "You can candy-coat it any way you want, but it's prison. He was told what to do and when to do it. He was told when to shower and when to eat.

"I'm scared to death he doesn't have the social skills that other young people have."

In 1997 at age 11, Abraham shot and killed Ronnie Greene Jr., 18, outside a Pontiac party store and was convicted of second-degree murder.

Abraham was sentenced as a juvenile. He is set to appear -- probably for the last time -- at 11 a.m. Thursday before Oakland County Circuit Judge Eugene Moore, who will decide whether Abraham should be released.

Abraham's attorneys expect he will.

On Jan. 19, Abraham turns 21.

Under Michigan law, juvenile offenders can be released on their 19th birthday if it can be shown they are not a risk to society, but they can be held -- as was the case with Abraham -- until they turn 21. After that, they are no longer under the court's jurisdiction.

Last year, Abraham was moved to a halfway house in Bay City after spending years in the maximum-security W.J. Maxey Training School near Whitmore Lake and the medium-security Nokomis Challenge Center near Prudenville.

Deborah Carley, Oakland County's chief deputy prosecutor, who had objected to Abraham's transfer to the halfway house, did not return phone calls from the Free Press on Thursday.

Attorney Mayer Morganroth, who also represented Abraham in a wrongful death suit that was settled out of court, said that he believes that releasing Abraham will be the "right thing to do," and that Abraham has learned discipline and how to control himself.

Bagdade said Abraham has an interest in getting a job writing lyrics in the music industry and can converse about current events, such as the war in Iraq.

The young man, who at 15 said he wanted to be a professional basketball player, still has an interest in sports.

For the first few months of living on his own, Abraham will have some financial support from the state for counseling, rent and education while he gets his life together and to help him through the transition, Bagdade said.

In 1999, Abraham, then 13, appeared on national television.

He was accompanied by attorney Geoffrey Fieger and interviewed by "60 Minutes" correspondent Ed Bradley. In the broadcast, Abraham said he wanted to be released.

Abraham's attorneys praised Moore for using his discretion to sentence Abraham as a juvenile.

Had he been sentenced as an adult, it is likely, the lawyers said, that Abraham would be required to serve far more time in prison.

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This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**  
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January 12, 2007

## Is young murderer ready for freedom?

Ten years after slaying, both sides wonder if Nathaniel Abraham can fit back into society.

**Jennifer Chambers / The Detroit News**

**PONTIAC** -- The world best knows him as a child.

Nathaniel Jamal Abraham, then 11, stunned the nation in 1997 when he pulled the trigger of a .22-caliber rifle and killed 18-year-old Ronnie Greene as Greene walked outside a Pontiac party store.

Abraham was charged under a then new juvenile justice law that allowed him to be tried as an adult. His case drew national attention because he was charged with first-degree murder as an 11-year-old and could have faced a life sentence.

But a jury convicted him of second-degree murder and Judge Eugene Arthur Moore sentenced him as a juvenile, meaning he would have to be released at age 21.

Even now, a decade later, and days before his release as he approaches his birthday, his case provokes controversy.

"Am I confident society is safe and he is fully rehabilitated?" asked Oakland County Chief Prosecutor Deborah Carley. "I am not. There is nothing else we can do."

His lawyer, Daniel Bagdade, also has concerns.

"My biggest fear for Nathaniel is through all the years he spent locked up, all the formative years when most people learn the social skills to get out and deal with life, Nate has never learned those social skills," he said.

Now, Abraham is on the brink of adulthood -- and freedom. Next week Abraham will walk out into the world a citizen, but he has dropped his college classes and his job ends when his juvenile sentence does.

Those developments compound the concerns of prosecutors who wonder not only how he'll fare in the real world, but also whether the juvenile justice system has fixed him in the first place.

When he was convicted of second-degree murder in 1999, prosecutors and defense lawyers in the case agreed that the juvenile justice system was the best place to reform Abraham; today, both sides admit that system has shortcomings.

His own attorney agrees that being raised in an institution cannot equip a young person with the skills needed to function in the real world. Prosecutors say the juvenile system gave Abraham everything it could offer -- education, therapy and job training, to name a few -- but it wasn't enough. For one thing, they say his long, costly incarceration didn't rehabilitate him. And they argue that since his sentence requires that the juvenile system must release him when he becomes an adult, the job is unfinished.

"Time is going to tell, a lot will be told," Carley said. "I don't think it's fair to put it all on one person. The court made the decision.

"The question is, has the state provided everything they could or is it lacking? Everything we have available to us in the juvenile justice system has been provided."

Prosecutors had asked for a blended sentence that would allow Abraham to enter the adult penal system at age 21, if it was determined that he wasn't rehabilitated. But Moore sentenced Abraham to juvenile detention until age 21 with no adult prison time. Since then, Abraham has been a case study in attempts to salvage young criminals and turn them into law-abiding citizens.

Lawyers on Abraham's case say with a team of three attorneys and up to a dozen social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists over the years, the 20-year-old has been given more assistance than any defendant in the state's juvenile system.

Together the state of Michigan and Oakland County have spent more than \$850,000 to house and rehabilitate Abraham from 1997 to today. Attorney fees and court-ordered independent psychological exams have cost an additional \$72,000.

Yet, he recently dropped out of Mott Community College. He will lose his job in a retail store next Friday when his state-ordered rehabilitation ends. He will walk into the world with no job and no ongoing education.

"That troubles me. The only guaranteed key to success is education. It's all up to him right now. He is young. He doesn't have a lot of experience," Carley said.

Bagdade is steadfast that Abraham has been rehabilitated after eight years of treatment. He describes Abraham as an articulate and imaginative young man with a passion for music. Bagdade says the case shows society that children who commit crimes belong in the juvenile system and not adult prison.

"You have to treat children as children. That is what they are. No one wants to see children commit violent crimes. Locking them in prison and treating them as adults with adult sentences is not the answer," he said.

Michigan, which has earned a reputation as one of the most punitive states for juveniles, has more than 300 inmates under age 18 who are serving life without parole.

Abraham did struggle with anger and respecting authority figures, Bagdade admits, as well as with his grades and following orders. Carley has spent the last five years on the case trying to ensure Abraham is making progress. At hearings where social workers read reports that focused on the positive but glossed over the negative, Carley was the sole critical voice in the courtroom.

Abraham had repeated problems bucking authority figures, controlling his anger and accepting the role he played in Greene's death, acting more like a victim rather than a perpetrator, according to progress reports filed by state social workers.

Attorney Lisa Halushka prosecuted Abraham. She said the media and the world became so fixated on the 11-year-old facing adult

prison time -- a punishment the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office says it never asked for -- that important lessons were lost. Amnesty International featured Abraham on its cover for a 1998 report that condemned the U.S. juvenile justice system.

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Nathaniel Abraham will make his final court appearance on his second-degree murder sentence at 11 a.m. Thursday in Oakland Circuit Court at 1200 Telegraph in Pontiac.

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January 12, 2007

## Victim's sister still struggles

Jennifer Chambers / The Detroit News

**PONTIAC** -- The day Jan. 19, 2007 has been seared into Nichole Edwards' memory for eight long years now.

It is the day her brother's killer, Nathaniel Abraham, will turn 21 years old and walk free into the world.

The concept has terrified Edwards ever since that fateful moment on Oct. 29, 1997, when Abraham, merely 11 years old, fired a sniper shot from atop a hill in Pontiac that killed her brother, Ronnie Greene Jr.

For the last nine and half years, Edwards has been the main presence for the Greene family at court hearings including the trial, the sentencing phase and for monthly progress updates where she would hear first hand news on Abraham's progress at the Maxey Juvenile Facility.

She has turned down the opportunity to have a one-on-one talk with Abraham. And now that the time has come for his release, Edwards does not believe the juvenile justice system has worked on the young man, who earned his G.E.D. and started a job during his sentence, but has struggled with anger, continued to resist authority and was often unable to meet the goals of his case workers during the case.

"I don't think he has been rehabilitated," Edwards said. "I don't see no remorse there. While he has been in there he has gone to school but I don't see no drastic change in him for me to say, maybe he made a mistake and maybe he will do better.

"I think the juvenile justice system can work but I don't think it did work in this case."

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# THE BAY CITY TIMES

## Man chosen to run Bay County juvenile home turns down the job

Friday, January 12, 2007

By RYAN J. STANTON

**TIMES WRITER**

Bay County is starting over this week to find a new director for the county's juvenile home in Hampton Township.

County Executive Thomas L. Hickner said on Wednesday that the top candidate for the job has declined the county's offer to become director of the Department of Juvenile Detention Services.

According to Hickner, Michael Lockwood, a state probation officer, stated in an e-mail that his family budget could not afford to absorb the pay cut and significantly higher costs for health insurance that would result from accepting the county's offer.

The at-will position pays \$54,912 a year.

"This development came as a complete surprise to me," Hickner said, noting that the salary had been made known at the onset of the application process.

County commissioners on Tuesday had unanimously approved hiring Lockwood. The 42-year-old Saginaw Township man was expected to start work this month.

The decision to offer the job to Lockwood was based on an extensive statewide recruitment effort, which included more than 100 applications and more than a dozen interviews, Hickner said.

Working exclusively in Bay County, Lockwood has been a probation and parole agent with the Michigan Department of Corrections for more than 13 years.

Lockwood had letters of recommendation from Bay County Chief Circuit Judge Kenneth W. Schmidt, Probate Judge Karen A. Tighe and District Judge Timothy J. Kelly.

Now, the county will start anew its search to replace previous director Tom Tonkavich, who left for a job in Florida last year. The position has remained vacant for more than six months.

Hickner said the county will be re-issuing advertisements for the job immediately and he intends to fill the position as soon as possible.

He said he can't blame Lockwood for turning down the job, as few people would willingly take a pay cut. He also noted that county workers pay about 15 percent of their own health insurance costs, which amounts to about \$150 a month, and that was another downside for Lockwood.

Whoever takes the job could be stepping into a juvenile home with a desolate north wing, where the county has cut back on services.

Bay County eliminated youth substance abuse treatment at the juvenile home in August, saying the program costs were too much. Eleven part-time employees whose hours were reduced due to the termination of the program have collected \$18,685 in unemployment compensation since then, according to county records.

Hickner said there still are talks of bringing back substance abuse treatment services, with the goal of having the program pay for itself. He said the county will be sending out letters to treatment providers,

informing them that the county is offering the north wing for lease.

"What we hope to do is get a provider that would come in and say, 'We will operate a program of up to 12 beds in the north pod, and staff it,'" Hickner said, adding that Riverhaven Coordinating Agency, a subsidiary of Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health Authority, would pay for the program.

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Pair sentenced in abuse case

By RICH ADAMS

Tribune Editor

CHEBOYGAN - A Wolverine man was sentenced to prison and his girlfriend was sent to jail for committing child abuse, according to Cheboygan County Prosecutor Mickey Castagne.

Chancey Dohring, 40, was sentenced to between 20 months and four years in prison after being convicted of three counts of second-degree child abuse, Castagne reported Wednesday.

His girlfriend, Peggy Moore, was convicted of one count of third-degree child abuse and was sentenced to six months in jail, Castagne reported in a news release.

The case was investigated by the Michigan State Police and revealed that Dohring had engaged in repeated acts of abuse toward the children, Castagne said.

“According to the victims, the abuse included acts where Dohring would put duct tape over the children's mouths to keep them quiet,” the prosecutor reported. “Dohring nailed the children to the floor by nailing their clothes to the floor. The defendant would use a stick to hit the children, leaving bruises. On one occasion, the defendant pulled one victim's fingers apart, causing an injury that needed medical attention to repair.”

The investigation revealed that Dohring and Moore had mistreated the two minors repeatedly during a long period of time.

Castagne said that this is a case where the law should impose the maximum sentence allowable.

“These acts of child abuse were despicable,” Castagne said in the release. “The trauma to these victims is profound, given the severity and frequency of these acts. The children have suffered severe psychological harm.”

Second-degree child abuse is a felony punishable by up to four years in prison. Third-degree child abuse is a felony punishable by up to two years in prison.

Detroit Free Press Macomb County news briefs

*January 12, 2007*

## **EASTPOINTE: Father faces child-abuse charges for baby's injuries**

A 20-year-old Eastpointe man will face a felony child abuse charge in Macomb County Circuit Court.

Ted Wieckhorst is charged in connection with injuries suffered by his 5-week-old daughter in December. His case was bound over Wednesday from 38th District Court in Eastpointe. A preliminary hearing in circuit court has been set for Jan. 22.

Prosecutors said the girl suffered severe internal injuries while Wieckhorst took care of her on Dec. 14.

Wieckhorst is in the Macomb County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bond cash or surety.

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Article published Jan 11, 2007

## Tempers were hot in cop Taser incident

By Stacy Jenkins  
Staff writer

High emotions were at the center of a traffic stop that led to the Tasing of an off-duty Detroit police sergeant in the driveway of his Farmington Hills home in December.

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer, on Wednesday, released the in-car video of the incident, which led to the arrest of David Marshall, a 12-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department.

Marshall was pulled over shortly after 1 a.m. on Dec. 13 after running a red light at 10 Mile and Inkster in Farmington Hills. He was on his way home from work when Hills police officer Mike Meister made the traffic stop.

The video shows Marshall continue to drive on his street, pull to the left side of the road and stop to pick up his mail from his curbside mailbox — while the police overhead lights were activated.

"Picking up your mail is more important than stopping for me?" asked Meister, who became increasingly irate. "You think you're somebody special?"

Marshall, who was in his DPD uniform, was asked to step out of his vehicle and give up his weapon. Marshall initially refused to get out of the car and asked that a supervisor be called to the scene. He said there was no probable cause for Meister to order him out of his vehicle or to demand his weapon.

Meister is a 16-year veteran of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The incident escalated quickly and Marshall got out of his vehicle. Officer Meister attempted to escort him to his patrol car and Marshall became more angry when Meister put his hand on Marshall's arm while walking him to the patrol car.

"Take your hands off of me," Marshall yelled repeatedly.

Back-up arrived on the scene and a scuffle ensued out of view of the in-car video camera.

"Don't go there," Marshall could be heard saying when he saw the second officer reach for his Taser gun. A crackling sound indicated Marshall had been Tasered and an officer could then be heard saying Marshall had been disarmed.

Marshall told a supervisor, who then arrived on the scene, that the Taser gun came out before Marshall placed his hand on his weapon. Hills officers said they used the Taser after Marshall placed his hand on his gun.

"There was definitely a threat there," one of the Hills officers told the supervisor on the scene.

Marshall was taken to the station and booked on misdemeanor charges of running a red light and interfering with police. He was arraigned on Jan. 8 in 47th District Court on the misdemeanor charges and an unrelated fourth-degree child abuse charge that stems from an incident in May.

Oakland County Child Protective Services brought the incident, involving Marshall's then-12-year-old son, to the FHPD for investigation. The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office issued an arrest warrant and Marshall was also arraigned on Jan. 8 on the one-year misdemeanor charge.

Marshall's attorney, Arnold Reed, said the timing of the child abuse charge is more than suspicious and that the claim is "bogus."

"Everybody knows — I don't even have to say it," he said, of the timing. "This was eight-and-a-half months ago. My client was not arrested or proven responsible for any child abuse or neglect."

Regarding the Taser incident, Dwyer said both parties could have been more professional.

"The manner in which my officer handled this traffic stop was disappointing — disappointing to say the least," said Dwyer.

"Likewise, the unprofessional and criminal conduct of the Detroit officer, led to his lawful arrest."

Reed said Dwyer's characterization that both officers could have acted more professional is a "nickel slick tactic" to shift the attention away from his officer and to convince the Detroit police chief that her officer acted inappropriately.

"One guy here is the victim," said Reed, referring to his client.

Reed said a civil lawsuit will be filed and will be based on false arrest, assault and battery and race.

Marshall is African American.

"Race is always a consideration," he said. "From the initial stop, this cop had it in his mind that he was ready for some action."

Dwyer denies race had anything to do with the incident.

"I assure you that race played no part in the decision to stop this vehicle; played no part in the manner in which the stop was conducted or in any subsequent decision to pursue charges against the driver," said Dwyer.

Meister was taken off road patrol and is on desk duty. Reed said the Detroit Police Department has not conducted a formal investigation of his client, who remains on duty.

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January 12, 2007

## 5 men face accused pedophile in court

They testify against the man they say abused them as boys in Detroit and paid them after sexual acts.

**Ronald J. Hansen / The Detroit News**

**DETROIT** -- Five men believe they saw a familiar face Thursday and recalled a part of their lives they have spent 30 years trying to forget.

They testified they were all certain of one thing: Theodore Norman Lamborgine molested them as young boys growing up near Detroit's Cass Corridor.

"The truth is this man did things to me that ruined my life forever," said one man, now 39, who testified in Detroit's 36th District Court that Lamborgine performed oral sex on him when he was about 7 years old.

Like most of the victims, the man, who is serving a prison sentence for falsely reporting child abuse, said Lamborgine gave him money after the sex acts. Another man said Lamborgine sneaked into his bed after the man had smoked marijuana and drank beer with other boys. The man said he was about 14 years old at the time.

Lamborgine, 65, is one of two men charged in what police have described as a pedophile sex ring that operated in the Cass Corridor in the 1970s and early 1980s. Other men believed to have molested boys have died.

The other man charged, Richard Macrae Lawson, a convicted murderer, has implicated Lamborgine in the infamous Oakland County child killer case. Authorities have said Lamborgine may have knowledge of the case in which four suburban children were slain in 1976 and 1977. However, investigators have not said he is the suspected killer.

On Thursday, Lamborgine mostly bowed his head and showed little emotion as the men accused him of molesting them. Judge B. Pennie Millender ordered him to stand trial on sexual assault charges involving five victims in Detroit. He faces similar charges in Southgate and Romulus.

One victim in court Thursday said Lamborgine molested him three times in his apartment and gave him about \$20 each time.

"I was young, and I was stupid. I'm a 47-year-old man, and I've got a family. I just want to put it to rest," he said. "I'm older now and a whole lot wiser."

Another man, now 44, said Lamborgine molested him shortly before and after his 14th birthday, giving him \$20 or \$25 after each encounter. About three years later, Lamborgine took him to Ohio, where he had relocated by then, and molested him in both states on the trip, the man said.

The Detroit News is not naming the men because the paper generally does not identify victims of sexual assault.

Lawson, 60, is scheduled for his preliminary exam today after requesting to defend himself on the criminal charges.

*Detroit News Staff Writer Mark Hicks contributed to this report. You can reach Ronald J. Hansen at (313) 222-2019 or [rhansen@detnews.com](mailto:rhansen@detnews.com).*

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## Teacher to be tried in eight more sex cases

Friday, January 12, 2007

By Barton Deiters

The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Suspended music teacher Ronald Taylor Jr. watched as one young boy after another took the stand and testified that Taylor molested them.

The 38-year-old Grand Rapids Public Schools employee was ordered Thursday to stand trial in Kent County Circuit Court on charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct for a series of alleged fondling incidents that involved nine boys ages 5 to 10.

Taylor was bound over to the higher court on cases involving eight of the boys; he was bound over last week on the ninth victim's case.

The last three youths to speak took the stand Thursday before Grand Rapids District Judge Benjamin Logan and testified against Taylor with varying degrees of certainty, and with many contradictions between previous statements to police and their testimony in the witness chair.

Defense attorney Fil Iorio said his client is the victim of overzealous school officials, media hype and hysterical family members.

"Nearly all the statements have been inherently inconsistent," Iorio said. He argued to have all charges thrown out based on the inconsistent testimony and the fact that the alleged victims were related or close friends, and that the boys had discussed the event with each other, numerous relatives and others.

He also questioned the competency of the children who testified and their ability to tell truth from fiction and, in one case, even to identify their alleged assailant in the courtroom.

Kent County Assistant Prosecutor Kevin Bramble said the number of children who have come forward and other factors more than met the threshold for the case to be sent to Circuit Court. Logan agreed.

A 9-year-old faced numerous questions from Iorio and contradicted himself several times about when and where the alleged incidents took place and with whom he discussed them. He claimed at one point to have punched Taylor in the face when the man approached him.

A 7-year-old answered most questions with "I don't know" and said he "forgets things when I sleep."

But both boys were clear that Taylor had touched them on their private parts.

A 6-year-old's testimony was unshakable as he consistently provided a sometimes indignant account of what he says happened to him at the hands of the teacher. The scowling kindergartener said Taylor touched him in a music room at Buchanan Elementary School.

In two days of testimony, other boys said they were touched at school, church, Taylor's home, Taylor's parents' home, a birthday party and the Zap Zone Laser Tag Center on 28th Street SW in Wyoming.

Iorio has asked the school district for disciplinary and attendance records for the boys, a request the district is fighting. School attorney Linda Rittersdorf said the request violates student privacy laws and that any request for file information has to be approved by the Circuit Court judge. Logan ruled in her favor.

Each of the 14 counts against Taylor is a 15-year felony. He remains in the Kent County Jail on \$225,000 bond.

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## **Nominations accepted for Community Caring Award**

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

**GENESEE COUNTY**

**THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION**

Friday, January 12, 2007

**By Shantell M. Kirkendoll**

**JOURNAL STAFF WRITER**

Health Access is accepting nominations for the third annual Community Caring Awards. The awards go to those helping to bridge the gap for health care among the uninsured.

A group, business or individual can be nominated for providing financial assistance for services or supplies, discounted or in-kind services and volunteer time to address issues of uninsured.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 20. Forms are available at [www.healthaccessprogram.org](http://www.healthaccessprogram.org). Details: (810) 762-4740.

- Shantell M. Kirkendoll

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## 'She has no rights, she belongs to me'

Wednesday, January 12, 2007

ERIN ALBERTY

### THE SAGINAW NEWS

The slaying this week of Mary L. Babb and murder charges against her estranged husband show mid-Michigan has a long way to go to protect battered women who attempt to leave abusive relationships, a domestic violence expert says.

"(Babb) may have done everything she would have been advised to do," said Valerie A. Hoffman, chief executive officer of the Underground Railroad domestic abuse shelter in Saginaw. "She'd been employed for six months, she was doing well and succeeding.

"Victims can do all the right things, but without the community stepping up -- in the workplace, clergy, the community -- they aren't safe."

Babb, 30, was hanging upside-down from a seat belt in her crashed SUV when she suffered two shots to the chest from a 20-gauge shotgun. The slaying occurred near the Morning Sun newspaper in Mount Pleasant, where she worked as an advertising representative.

Isabella County authorities added murder and other assault and weapons charges to five domestic violence-related charges Thomas D. Babb, 37, faced in Otsego County.

Mary Babb had filed for divorce and acquired a personal protection order against Thomas Babb last fall, when a judge scheduled his trial on assault, weapons and criminal sexual conduct charges.

Mary Babb accused him of binding her with duct tape and physically and sexually assaulting her in August, court transcripts indicate. She said he asked her if she was having an affair with another man and wielded a chef's knife while threatening to cut her nose off, burn their house and stop her from seeing their 4-year-old son, Sam.

She later moved to Mount Pleasant.

About 60 percent of domestic violence murder victims took active, physical steps to leave their relationships with their attackers, Hoffman said. That figure does not account for murders that may have occurred after arguments during which the victims threatened to leave the relationship, Hoffman said.

The reason the end of an abusive relationship often is the most dangerous part, she said, is that domestic violence is about control.

"It is at that point they become lethal. They haven't been able to cajole, charm, threaten or convince them to stay in the relationship," Hoffman said.

"If (the victim) has now reached out and obtained independence from (her abuser), he's not going to allow that to happen.

"They say, 'It's mine, and nobody else can have it.' There isn't any of them who don't feel they're justified to beat, control, own this individual. They won't talk about how much they love the person. They're going to talk about, 'She has no rights, she belongs to me.' It's about a non-entity."

That is what makes killing her a preferable alternative to losing her -- at least until the abuser has to take responsibility, Hoffman said.

"Most end up to be a murder suicide," Hoffman said. "They're not going to be held accountable for their crime."

Getting someone out of a violent relationship safely takes more than the victim's own will, Hoffman said.

"There's a gentleman who we've worked with three of his five victims over years. Every time, he just finds another one," Hoffman said. "We have to realize, like sexual assault predators, individuals are not going to stop. A 90-day sentence isn't going to do anything -- especially if it's the fourth or fifth offense.

"These individuals don't believe they're doing anything wrong. They believe they're entitled."

Even before an actual conviction, there are measures to take, she said.

"We have to say we're going to tear this whole case apart and figure out what to do differently next time," Hoffman said.

If police accounts of Babb's murder are correct, at least one thing went wrong, Hoffman said: Her personal protection order didn't protect her.

"How does he still have a gun?" Hoffman asked.

Babb's protection order, filed in September, banned her husband from contacting her or possessing a firearm -- as does his prior felony conviction.

Mount Pleasant police on Thursday said they had not yet identified the murder weapon. A crime lab is processing several possible weapons, but police would not say how many they have found.

Investigators also said they found no reports that Thomas Babb violated the protection order before Tuesday.

Authorities in Otsego County released Babb on a \$30,000 cash or surety bond after his fall arrest.

"That's higher than what we normally set, but I took into consideration the seriousness of the charges," said Magistrate Regina Theriault, who set his bond. v

Erin Alberty is a staff writer for The Saginaw News. You may reach her at 776-9673.

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## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Decatur man gets jail time for domestic violence

Wednesday, January 12, 2007

**By Rod Smith**

**Special to the Gazette**

PAW PAW -- A Decatur man has been sentenced to jail for domestic violence.

Van Buren County Circuit Judge William Buhl sentenced Dewey Lee Terry, 37, to 90 days in jail, 30 days credit, and \$435 costs for third-offense domestic violence.

The victim told police that Terry had assaulted her in front of a young boy.

The defendant pleaded guilty Nov. 21 to Oct. 21 and Oct. 23 incidents in Decatur.

Buhl also handed down the following sentences:

Steven Leroy Brown, 29, of Kalamazoo, to 18 months to five years in prison, restitution of \$539, for first-degree retail fraud. Brown pleaded guilty Dec. 11 to an Oct. 4 incident in South Haven.

Onecimo F. Hernandez, 25, address unavailable, to six months in jail, 88 days credit, restitution of \$1,331, and \$425 costs for forgery -- a check. Hernandez pleaded guilty Dec. 8 to a May 21, 2004, incident in Paw Paw.

Paul Anthony Pratt, 40, of Kalamazoo, to 23 months to five years in prison for first-degree retail fraud. Pratt pleaded guilty Dec. 18 to an Oct. 3 incident in South Haven.

Cornelio Zamora-Apolinar, 43, of Dowagiac, to 75 days in jail, two days credit, and \$375 costs for failure to stop at the scene of a property-damage accident. The defendant also received 75 days in jail, two days credit, for attempted false report of a felony. Zamora-Apolinar pleaded guilty Nov. 27 to a June 11 incident in Hamilton Township.

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**ourMidland.com**  
from the Midland Daily News

01/11/2007

## Haven for hope: Homeless women 'feel the love'

By [Angela E. Lackey](#)



Daily News photos/BRETT MARSHALL

**Lorrie Elliott, right, shares her last few hours with Mi-Kyella Connyer and Connyer's 5-month-old daughter, Makayla, before they leave the shelter to return home to Detroit. "This place is amazing. It's like a family. You really feel the love here," Connyer said of the women at the shelter and the friendships she has made.**

The home is surrounded by trees, and its large windows let in lots of light. The kitchen is open and bright, inviting the women to make cinnamon toast on a cold winter day.

It is a haven for women with no other place to go, and one of Midland County's best-kept secrets.

Annette Yott is The Open Door's ministry coordinator and runs the Homer Township women's shelter, which has been open about three years. She asked that the exact location of the women's shelter not be disclosed.

"We don't publicize where we're located for safety reasons," Yott said, adding some of the residents are domestic violence victims. However, she stressed, the shelter accepts women in many different situations.

The majority of residents are from Midland County. The women are there for many reasons -- poverty,

divorce, eviction, substandard housing.

Virginia was evicted from her home. She is a registered nurse and was placed on medical leave from her supervisor job. She had just had surgery on both arms when she came to the shelter.

"I was pretty helpless when I came here," she said. "I had casts on both arms."

Her breathing has gotten worse, and she has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma. She is connected to an oxygen tank, her long tube snaking through the shelter's kitchen and dining room. She hasn't been allowed to return to her job, which means no benefits.

Virginia said she feels safe at the shelter, and everyone is family. Now she is starting to do things to help around there.

Some have worn out their stay at another shelter. Yott said about a quarter of the female residents come from the county jail. The women have committed crimes such as shoplifting and drunken driving.

"We've not had a violent offender out here," she said of the women's shelter.

Other women come from nearby counties, such as Gladwin, Clare and Isabella, which have no shelters for women.

Women hear about the shelter by word of mouth, or are referred there by an agency such as the Department of Human Services. Yott said the Midland County Sheriff's Office sometimes will call and tell her about someone living in a car.



**Marissa Green, right, her daughter Harley, 9, left, and Lorrie Elliott gathered in a bedroom at The Open Door women's shelter on Wednesday to spend time with 5-month-old Makayla Connyer before she and her mother move out, returning to Detroit. "I'm going to miss having a baby in the house," Elliott said.**

Right now, it is home to six women and four children. That puts the shelter close to capacity. The

numbers were higher in December -- eight women and seven children.

"That's pretty indicative of what our year has been like," Yott said, adding that the number of women staying there has been higher than in past years. The shelter does not receive United Way funds, and relies on The Open Door's budget, donations and foundation grants.

"Our biggest expense out here is probably utilities," Yott said.

The shelter can house nine women and a number of children. Beds sometimes are moved around to make things work, and a previous storage room is now a bedroom.

Marissa, 29, and her three children call one of the rooms home. They have been there since November.

"I like it here. They're my family," she said. "It's going to be hard for me to leave."



**After spending two months at The Open Door women's shelter, Mi-Kyella Connyer and her 5-month-old daughter Makayla face the next chapter in their life moving home to Detroit with intentions of returning to the Midland area. "It was real good. You learn survival skills here," Connyer said of the shelter.**

Her problems started in August 2005. The home she was living in burned down and she didn't have renter's insurance. Her landlord paid for the family to stay at a hotel, and found them another place to rent.

But Marissa couldn't keep up the payments. Finally, she asked her landlord to evict her so she could get some help. She then moved into a trailer, but that was sold and she had to move again.

Compounding her problems was a bout of interstitial cystitis. She was given Vicodin for the pain, but was taken off of it after six months and had problems dealing with withdrawal.

Her income is \$580 from DHS and she is allowed \$365 by Michigan State Housing Development Authority for a place to live. She said she can afford an efficiency apartment with that amount.

"(But) they won't let me live in that because I have three kids," Marissa said.

Now she is trying to get on disability, because of both her physical problems and because she has bipolar, or manic-depressive, disorder.

The shelter is Christian-based. Yott said its purpose is to "proclaim the name of Christ." The women are required to attend church each Sunday. They can choose which church to go to, and the shelter provides transportation.

"Most don't have a church background," Yott said. There's also an optional Bible study for the women.

The women attend a 15-week Christian-based anger management course. She thinks it's important for all the residents to take this course.

"It's been my observation a lot of the problems stem from anger issues," Yott said.

Christianity is also part of addiction recovery. Women with substance abuse problems have to attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous nightly, plus the Christian program called Celebrate Recovery every Friday.

"I would say 90 percent have some history of substance abuse or other addictive behavior," Yott said.

*All photos taken by Daily News photographers are available as [reprints](#).*

Detroit Free Press Macomb County news briefs

*January 12, 2007*

## **ROSEVILLE: Volunteers to aid, tally the homeless**

Macomb County is looking for volunteers to help count and assist homeless people. The Community Connection Day on Jan. 25 is designed to provide services to the homeless that range from meals to health screenings. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Erin Presbyterian Church, 30000 Gratiot Ave.

A required volunteer orientation day is scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, 20415 Erin St.

A count of the homeless population is required for the county to receive state and federal money.

For information or to volunteer, call Carrie Fortune at 586-783-0916 between 8:30 and 5 weekdays.

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January 12, 2007

## 2 charged in failure to report abuse

Workers at day care in Farmington Hills failed to pass on girl's story of sex assault, officials say.

**Mike Martindale / The Detroit News**

**NOVI** -- Two top administrators at a Farmington Hills child day care facility are charged with failing to report suspected sexual abuse of a 3-year-old Novi girl, as mandated under state law.

Mirjana Milosavljevic, 52, director of the Childtime Learning Center on West 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, and Lisa Gail Wiesner, 39, the facility's assistant director, both pleaded not guilty Wednesday before 47th District Judge James B. Brady and were released on personal bond pending a pre-trial conference.

The charge is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Under state law, child care workers are required to report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child for investigation by the appropriate agency.

"It is our opinion this was an incident that required mandatory reporting, and they did not report it anywhere," said Novi Police Lt. Victor Lauria.

Andrea Dean, an assistant Oakland County prosecuting attorney, said the allegation of sexual abuse first surfaced Nov. 24 when a teacher was helping a child with her clothing.

"The girl was lying on the floor and said, 'my daddy tickles me there,' and pointed at her vagina," Dean said. "The teacher asked the child to repeat what she had said and she did. And then she repeated it again, pointing at herself, in front of a second teacher."

Dean said the first teacher told Wiesner about the incident and expected it to be relayed to State Child Protective Services. The teacher became concerned when, by the following week, she had not been contacted by investigators.

"She contacted Protective Services and was told there had been no such referral," Dean said. "So she made her own report to them."

The child was questioned and taken to Care House, where she declined to discuss the matter. Lauria said the investigation has been closed without charge or prosecution.

Childtime spokeswoman Amy Popp would not discuss the status of the two workers charged other than to say "they are no longer caring for children at any of our centers."

*You can reach Mike Martindale at (248) 647-7226 or [mmartindale@detnews.com](mailto:mmartindale@detnews.com).*

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# THE DAILY Reporter

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## Judge tells father with arrearages to stay out of bars, away from alcohol

By Don Reid-Staff Writer

COLDWATER — Anthony Nunnally, Sr. must pay off \$8,016 more in child support in the next three years or face six months in jail.

That is just in Branch County. The Battle Creek resident faces payment of \$6,338 in Calhoun County in another child support case.

The mother of his son noted Nunnally, 46, was able to find \$8,200 to stay out of jail when he was first arrested.

"He could have made small payments of \$5 or \$10 a month but never did so," she said, adding that he never spent time with his son or came to court in the support case. "He finds a way to pay to avoid jail."

When the office of Attorney General Mike Cox brought criminal charges claiming that Nunnally owed over \$14,000 in Branch County, much of it for help the mother received from the state.

Nunnally said it will be hard for him to pay, as his girlfriend is expecting in May.

Judge Cherry extended the probation.

"I can't image any way you'll get this paid off in a year or two," he said.

In an unusual restriction for a support case, Judge Cherry ordered Nunnally to stay away from alcohol and bars.

"That money should go to child support," he said.

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## DHS workers make donations



(Spotlight Photo)

Marquette County Department of Human Services employees recently made two donations from money collected for the staff jeans day fund. Above, Laurie Schmit, left, St. Vincent De Paul executive director, accepts a \$542 check from Annette Elmlad, manager/community resource coordinator of the Department of Human Services. The contribution will go toward the St. Vincent De Paul Prescription Fund. Below, Ed Deyo, children services worker for DHS, presents a \$542 check to Deanna Dunn, Marquette County Juvenile Court foster care coordinator. The donation will be used for the Children's Enrichment Fund to help with extracurricular activities for Marquette County foster children.



Michigan Report

January 11, 2007

### **SHEEN WANTS EARLY OUT FOR STATE WORKERS**

Rep. Fulton Sheen (R-Plainwell) said he will soon introduce legislation that would offer an early retirement to state employees.

Mr. Sheen said the state could save millions of dollars with such a program, which would help the current fiscal crisis. Under the legislation, employees from state, judicial, legislative and administrative offices who have a combined age and years of service equaling 75 years would be able to take advantage of the early out program.

A two-year extension could also be provided by the state employer, Senate majority leader or House speaker.

“Soon we will be working on balancing the state budget, and with our economy in the condition that it is we must be certain we explore every avenue to getting our economy back on track,” Mr. Sheen said.

Dan Farough, spokesperson for House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford), said the speaker will review Mr. Sheen’s proposal as he would any legislator’s bill. However, Mr. Farough said there are some concerns that the state may spend more money by paying early retirement costs than it would gain in savings from employees leaving.

Another House member, Rep. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), introduced a similar measure during the last session, though his proposal would have required a combined age and service of 80 years. That proposal was balked at by the Granholm administration because state departments were still feeling the effect of the last employee buyout in 2002 where 8,000 employees left state government.